

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 DHA-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UNGA WA SF US

SUBJ: 30TH UNGA FOURTH COMMITTEE: NAMIBIA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF US STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA, DELIVERED
IN FOURTH COMMITTEE BY AMBASSADOR WHITE, OCT 22:

NINE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE UN GA IN RES 2145,
TERMINATED SA LEAGUE OF NATIONS MANDATE TO ADMINISTER
NAMIBIA, AND ITSELF ASSUMED DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR
TERRITORY. IT HAS BEEN OVER FOUR YEARS SINCE THE ICJ
CONCLUDED IN AN ADVISORY OPINION THAT SA MANDATE OVER NAMIBIA
WAS LEGALLY TERMINATED BY UN, AND THAT SA CONTINUED OCCUPATION
OF TERRITORY WAS ILLEGAL. DESPITE NUMEROUS CALLS BY UN,
ITS MEMBER STATES, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND PRIVATE GROUPS,
SA REMAINS TODAY FIRMLY ENTRENCHED IN ITS ILLEGAL
OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON, US POSITION OF SUPPORT OF RES 2145 AND
CONCLUSIONS OF ICJ IS WELL KNOWN. SO ALSO IS OUR SUPPORT FOR SC
RES 366 DEC 17, 1974, IN WHICH COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY
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DEMANDED THAT SA MAKE A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT IT WILL COMPLY

WITH UN RES, WITHDRAW FROM NAMIBIA AND TRANSFER POWER TO PEOPLE OF THAT TERRITORY. THIS COMITE ALSO IS WELL AWARE OF JOINT TRIPARTITE US, UK AND FRENCH DEMARCHE TO SA ON NAMIBIA, APRIL 22. THREE NATIONS MADE THIS DEMARCHE TO PRESENT THEIR OWN POSITIONS ON FUTURE OF TERRITORY AND TO REAFFIRM TO SA GOVT THE NEED FOR A CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT OF POLICY ON NAMIBIA. WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT VERY CLEAR AND ARE CONTINUING TO DO SO.

LIKE OTHER UN MEMBERS, WE DID NOT CONSIDER SA GOVT'S RESPONSE TO SC RES 366 ADEQUATE. WHILE WE WELCOME PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S MAY 20 STATEMENT THAT SA WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE REPRESENTATIVE OF UN SYG AND TO MEET WITH CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF OAU COMITE ON NAMIBIA, WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER STATED THAT SA COULD NOT ACCEPT UN SUPERVISION OF NAMIBIA.

SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF SC ON PROBLEM OF NAMIBIA DURING FIRST WEEK OF JUNE THIS YEAR ENDED WITH A VOTE ON A RES WHICH STATED THAT ILLEGAL SA OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA CONSTITUTED A THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY, AND CALLED FOR INSTITUTION OF A MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AS PROVIDED FOR IN CHAPTER VII OF UN CHARTER. US VOTED AGAINST THIS RES BECAUSE WE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT MANDATORY SANCTIONS WERE JUSTIFIED BY EXISTING SITUATION IN MANIBIA. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SITUATION, WHILE OF VERY DEEP CONCERN TO US, DOES NOT JUSTIFY A CALL FOR MANDATORY CHAPTER VII ACTION BY UN MEMBER STATES.

US POSITION ON FUTURE OF NAMIBIA IS EMBODIED IN THREE PRINCIPLES WHICH WE HAVE CONVEYED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO GOVT OF SA. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE:

1. ALL NAMIBIANS, WITHIN A SHORT TIME, SHOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY AND WITH UN SUPERVISION ON POLITICAL FUTURE AND CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF TERRITORY;

2. ALL NAMIBIAN POLITICAL GROUPS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO

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CAMPAIGN FOR THEIR VIEWS AND TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT HINDRANCE IN PEACEFUL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN COURSE OF SELF-DETERMINATION; AND

3. TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA SHOULD NOT BE FRAGMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APARTHEID POLICY CONTRARY TO WISHES OF ITS PEOPLE.

IT IS AGAINST THESE THREE PRINCIPLES THAT US WILL MEASURE
PROGRESS TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION
FOR PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. IN PAST MONTH, SA GOVT HAS MADE MUCH
OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE CONVENED IN WINDHOEK ON SEPT 1
AND DECLARATION OF INTENT ISSUED BY THIS CONFERENCE ON
SEPT. 12. US DOES NOT REGARD THIS CONFERENCE, AS PRESENTLY
CONSTITUTED, OR ITS DECLARATION OF INTENT, AS CAPABLE OF
REPRESENTING VIEWS OF ALL ELEMENTS OF NAMIBIAN POPULATION,
OR OF PROVIDING DEFINITIVE LEGITIMATE GUIDANCE ON THEIR
CONSTITUTIONAL PREFERENCES. FIRST OF ALL, CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT
POLITICAL GROUPS, SUCH AS SWAPO AND THE NAMIBIA NATIONAL
CONVENTION, ARE NOT REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE. SECONDLY,
CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE UNDER AUSPICES OF A STATE
WHOSE ADMINISTRATION OF NAMIBIA WE DO NOT REGARD AS LEGITIMATE.
CONCERNING DECLARATION OF INTENT ITSELF, I WOULD ONLY REITERATE
PRINCIPLE WHICH I HAVE JUST STATED: THE TERRITORY OF NAMIBIA
SHOULD NOT BE FRAGMENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH APARTHEID
POLICY CONTRARY TO WISHES OF ITS PEOPLE.

US HAS NOTED WITH DEEP CONCERN THAT CONFERENCE IS
TAKING PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF REPRESSION OF POLITICAL
ACTIVITY, ILLUSTRATED BY PRESENT DETENTION OF AN
ESTIMATED 30 NAMIBIANS UNDER TERRORISM ACT AND OTHER ILLEGAL
AND REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION. IN LINE WITH OUR POLICY OF MAKING
CLEAR TO SA GOVT OUR CONCERN OVER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
WE HAVE RAISED MATTER OF THESE RECENT DETENTIONS WITH SA
GOVT AND ARE AWAITING PARTICULARS ON THEM.

US HAS DURING PAST YEAR CONTRIBUTED \$50,000, SPECIALLY
EARMARKED FOR NAMIBIANS, TO UN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING
PROGRAM FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (UNETPSA). IN ADDITION, WE HAVE
INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA.
WE PRESENTLY ARE AWAITING BUDGET ESTIMATES WITH A VIEW TOWARD
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MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO INSTITUTE.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON, NAMIBIANS HAVE ALREADY BEEN KEPT WAITING
TOO LONG TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.
WE CONDEMN CONTINUED ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA AND
PERSISTENT REFUSAL OF SA TO HEED UN RESOLUTIONS AND IMPLEMENT A
POLICY OF PROMPT SELF-DETERMINATION. PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA HAVE
WAITED LONG ENOUGH FOR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS FREELY
THEIR VIEWS ON FUTURE OF THEIR TERRITORY. THEY HAVE LANGUISHED
LONG ENOUGH UNDER REPRESSIVE RACIAL POLICIES OF SA GOVT.
MADAM CHAIRPERSON, US CALLS AGAIN ON SA TO MOVE QUICKLY TO GRANT
POLITICAL FREEDOM AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS TO PEOPLE OF
NAMIBIA.

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